

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Presently Amended). A DNA expression plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding a biologically active recombinant NH₂-terminal polypeptide fragment of bactericidal/permeability-increasing protein which is up to about half the size of said protein, consisting essentially of the DNA sequence of claim 1 in the proper reading frame.

Claim 11. (Presently Amended). A prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell stably transformed or transfected with the expression DNA vector of claim 10.

Claim 12. (New) The vector of claim 10 wherein the polypeptide fragment has an apparent molecular weight of about 25,000 Daltons as determined by SDS-PAGE.

Claim 13. (New) The vector of claim 10 wherein the polypeptide fragment has the amino terminal sequence V-N-P-G-V-V-R-I-S-Q-K-G-L-D-Y-A-S-Q-Q.

Claim 14. (New) The vector of claim 10 wherein the polypeptide fragment has an amino acid sequence of from amino acid residue 1 to about amino acid residue 220 as set out in Figure 5.

Claim 15. (New). A prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell stably transformed or transfected with the DNA expression vector of any one of claims 12-14.